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## Licensed Occupations

### License Information:

#### Pharmacy Technicians

##### License Description:

Pharmacy technicians help pharmacists provide drugs and other health care products to patients.

The duties of pharmacy technicians who work in drug stores vary by state. This is because some states limit what technicians can do. In general, technicians review prescriptions or requests for refills that they receive from patients. To fill prescriptions, they count, pour, measure, or mix the medication. Then they select a container, and prepare and attach a label. They price and file the prescription, which must be checked by a pharmacist before it is given to a patient.

Pharmacy technicians may set up and maintain patient profiles. These are files that give a patient's medication history and are often stored on a computer. Technicians also fill out insurance claim forms. In addition, they take inventory of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. They enter this information into the computer so it can be reviewed and supplies ordered. They also stock incoming supplies. Some technicians clean and maintain pharmacy equipment. Some ring up sales on the cash register.

In hospitals, technicians have more responsibilities. They read patient charts, and prepare and deliver the medicine to patients. Then they copy the information into the patient's profile. Technicians may also put together a 24-hour supply of medicine for patients. They package and label each dose separately. They also make up intravenous (IV) packs for patients. A pharmacist must check medications before they are delivered.

#### LICENSE INFORMATION

##### Montana Certification

##### "Pharmacy Technician"

Licensure is authorized by Montana Code Annotated 37-7-201 and 37-7-301

##### Requirements

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. A high school diploma, or equivalent.
3. Be of good moral character.
4. Be certified by PTCB or another approved certifying agency. A technician who has not yet passed the PTCB certification may register as a Technician-in-Training. That registration is \$40 and is good for 18 months. This registration is not renewable.
5. No pharmacist whose license has been denied, revoked, suspended or restricted for disciplinary purposes is eligible to become registered as a pharmacy technician.

##### Renewal

Licenses expire on June 30 of each year, and may be renewed upon payment of a fee, and proof of current PTCB Certification.

##### Fees

Original certification \$40  
Renewal fee \$25

**OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION****Current Employment**

In Montana, about 723 pharmacy technicians are licensed in this medium-sized occupation with 175 technicians holding a training license.

Nationally, about 211,000 pharmacy technicians work in this medium-sized occupation. About one-half work in retail drug stores.

**Major employers:**

Retail drug stores  
Hospitals  
Grocery stores  
Department stores

**Wages**

In Montana, the median wage for pharmacy technicians is \$2,073 per month (\$11.96 per hour). Half earn between \$1,782 and \$2,340 per month (10.28 and \$13.50 per hour).

**MSA wages are as follows:**

Yellowstone County MSA \$2,090 per month (\$12.06 per hour). Half earn between \$1,848 and \$2,335 per month (\$10.66 and \$13.47 per hour).

Cascade County MSA \$2,075 per month (\$11.97 per hour). Half earn between \$1,877 and \$2,259 per month (\$10.83 and \$13.03 per hour).

Missoula County MSA \$2,094 per month (\$12.08 per hour). Half earn between \$1,749 and \$2,527 per month (\$10.09 and \$14.58 per hour).

Nationally, the median wage for pharmacy technicians is \$1,950 per month (\$11.26 per hour). Half of all pharmacy technicians earn between \$1,610 and \$2,400 per month (\$9.29 and \$13.83 per hour).

Wages vary by shift, employer, and the technician's level of training. Technicians may receive higher wages for working evenings or weekends. Certified technicians may earn more.

Full-time pharmacy technicians usually receive benefits. Typical benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, and health insurance. Those who work part time may not receive benefits.

**Outlook**

In Montana, employment for pharmacy technicians is projected to grow much faster than the statewide average for all occupations through 2012.

Nationally, the number of jobs for pharmacy technicians is expected to increase faster than average through the year 2012.

Much of the increase in jobs for pharmacy technicians will be due to the growing number of middle-aged and elderly people. These groups tend to use more prescription drugs than younger people. In addition, insurance companies and pharmacies are concerned about costs. They will rely on technicians to perform tasks once done by pharmacists. This trend will also increase the number of jobs for technicians.

Job opportunities will be good, especially for technicians who have formal training or previous experience.

**Licensing Agency:**

Montana Board of Pharmacy  
301 South Park, 4th Floor  
PO Box 200513  
Helena, MT 59620-0513  
(406) 841-2356  
[dlibsdpha@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdpha@mt.gov)

**License History**

2005 Number of Licenses Issued (Annual): 723  
2004 Number of Licenses Issued (Annual): 529  
2003 Number of Licenses Issued (Annual): 543

4 of 5 Licenses



To request changes or additions to the information above, please contact the National Crosswalk Service Center directly at [NCSC@iowa.gov](mailto:NCSC@iowa.gov) or 515.242.5034.



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